Detention of an Indian Doctor in Iran

601. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian doctor was detained by the security officials of Iran in Sept., 1992 for over a month without formal charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Indian Embassy to prevent such illegal detention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Dr. Mutyala Vinod Kumar, an Indian citizen, working in a hospital in Garmsar in the province of Semnan in Iran, has been under detention of security authorities since September 13, 1992. Despite repeated requests and demands made by our Embassy in Tehran, consular access has not been granted; neither have the grounds for detention been conveyed. Dr. Kumar's wife has been allowed to see him on a few occasions since his arrest.

The Government have taken the matter up with the Iranian authorities very strongly. Our Embassy has, however, merely been told that the matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Interior. Our Ambassador has personally raised the matter with the Iranian Foreign Minister and the Interior Minister, and pointed out that non-observance of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the Memorandum of Understanding on Consular Matters signed by India and Iran on November 11, 1991, in this case with regard to consular access, is likely to create an adverse impression in official and public circles in India. The matter has also been repeatedly and strongly taken up with the Iranian Embassy in New Delhi. The subject was raised during the 6th Session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission meeting held in Delhi on November 9—11 1992.

Whenever a case of detention of Indian citizen is brought to the attention of an Indian Mission, the latter tries to ascertain from the Government concerned the grounds for detention unless the same have already been communicated to the Mission. This action is also taken to ensure that the detention is not unlawful or arbitrary in nature. Government persists with its efforts at various levels and through various channels until such matters are resolved.

Chinese proposal on Boundary Dispute

602. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has recently sought specific details from China on its offer to settle the boundary question by making some adjustments in the Western sector and in turn expecting reciprocity from New Delhi in the eastern sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the above boundary adjustment proposal offered by China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) Government is continuing its efforts to find a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the India-China boundary question through peaceful negotiations. Whether such a solution would require reciprocal concessions in different sectors is still to be established. In the meetings of the Joint Working Group on the boundary question both sides are seeking to narrow differences on the complex boundary question by enhancing their understanding of each other's perceptions on the issue.

Kashmir issue at the NAM Summit

603. DR. ABRAR AHMED :
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :